When Permanency is not Permanent: Exploring Dissolution

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adoption STRONG

888.667.2399
RightTurnNE.org

A collaboration between Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and Nebraska Children's Home Society

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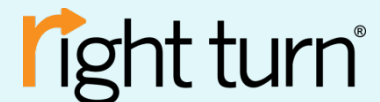Amber & Robert Baker
Parents

Children's Summit
Sept 7, 2016

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History
Right Turn was created in response to Safe Haven.

Mission
To provide family-driven post-adoption and post-guardianship services.

Vision
All post-adoptive and post-guardianship families will have access to high quality, family-centered support throughout the ages and stages of their adoption and guardianship journey.

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RIGHT TURN ELIGIBILITY

PRIVATE DOMESTIC INFANT, INTERNATIONAL, FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP & STEP-PARENT ADOPTION

We serve ALL adoptive families living in Nebraska including private domestic infant, international, step-parent, foster care, and kinship adoption until the child turns 21. Right Turn serves families who adopted children previously in the custody of the state of Nebraska prior to finalization, with a valid subsidy agreement regardless of the State of residence.

FOSTER CARE GUARDIANSHIP

We also serve families who have a child who was in the custody of the state of Nebraska prior to the finalization of their guardianship, with a valid subsidy agreement regardless of the State of residence until the child turns 19.

Adoptive and Guardianship Families

Right Turn
Programs & Services

Permanency Support Services

Parent-2-Parent Network

A Step Further In-Home Services

Family Activities & Support Groups

A Step Further Parent Workshop

Parent & Professional Education

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WHO USES RIGHT TURN SERVICES?

Right Turn Families have significantly (p < .000) …
- higher percentage of single parents households,
- longer time in custody, and
- greater number of prior placements

… than RT ineligible and no RT services families

	RT (n=1330)		RTIE (n=846)		NORT (n=3936)	
	n	Mean	n	Mean	n	Mean
Two parent households	940	70.7%	691	81.7%	3924	99.7%
Days in custody (n)	811	1065	846	990	3936	1000
Prior placements (n)	802	2.85	843	2.62	3936	2.54

RIGHT TURN CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of clients served since January 1, 2010

- 1003 cases
- 911 unique families representing 2524 children

Adult client demographics

- Female (87%), Age 45+ years (64%)
- Married (59%)
- Caucasian (69%)
- High school diploma (29%) or college degree or higher (48%)

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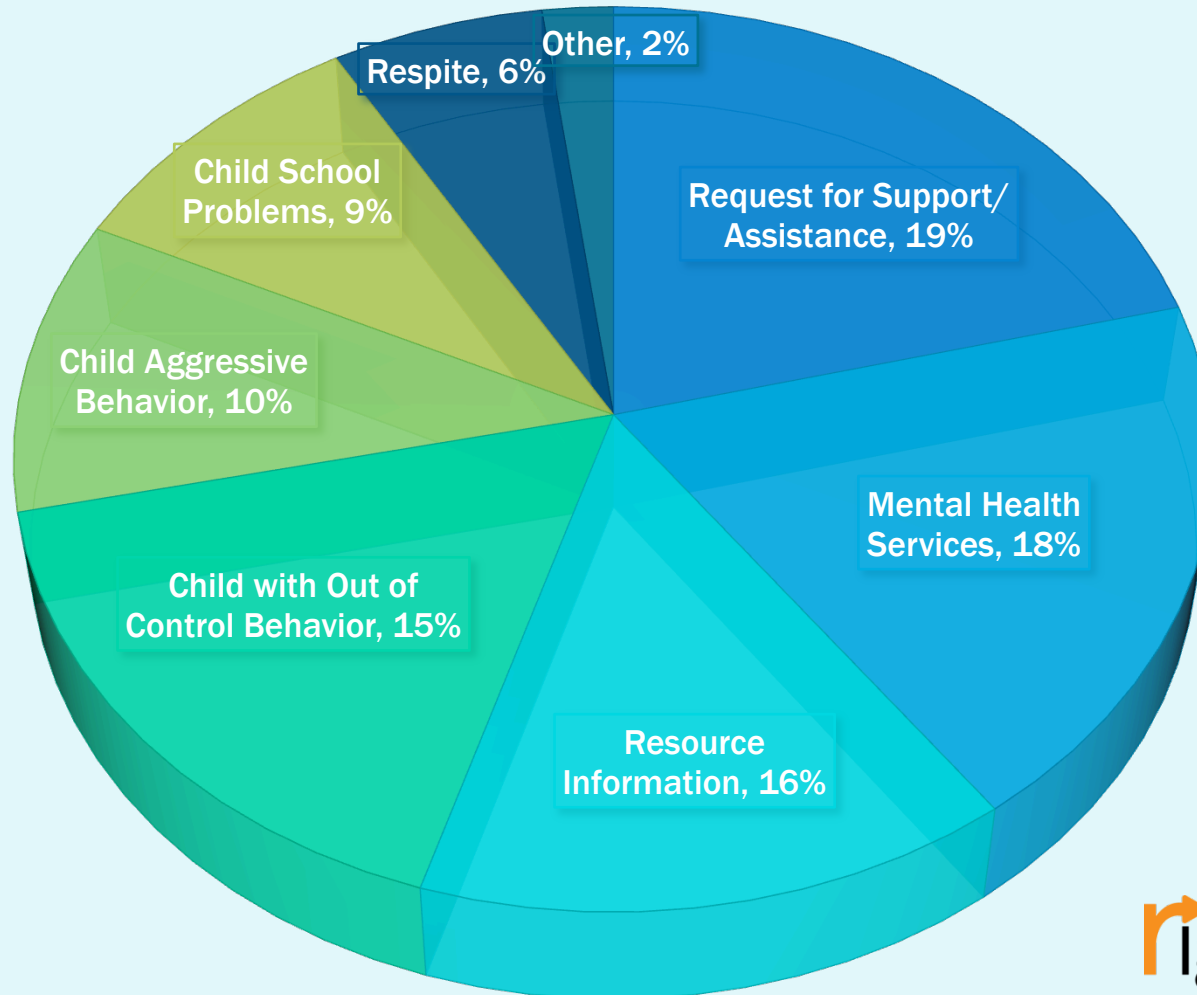# RIGHT TURN CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Child client demographics
- Adopted (82%); Guardianship (18%)
- 5-12 years (41%); 13-17 years (37%)
- Male (52%) and female (48%)
- Kinship (17%)

Family demographics
- 98% speak English as their primary language
- Annual household incomes
  - $19,000 or less (19%)
  - More than $40,000 (32%), 26% omit earnings information

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PRIMARY REFERRAL REASONS

FAMILY GOALS & STRATEGIES

- Right Turn staff work with families to identify goals and strategies for reaching those goals

- Families may have multiple goals

- Top 3 domains for all goals
  - Mental Health (29%)
  - Educational/Vocational (20%)
  - Family (19%)

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FAMILY STRATEGIES

Family and Permanency Support Specialist identify strategies

- **Support – Connecting families with:**
  - Informal or formal supports, support groups, school services, mentors
  - Mental/behavioral health services
  - Legal services, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
  - Emotional support/advocacy to the client
- **Resources – Tangible materials such as:**
  - Child care subsidy, financial aid, and scholarships
  - Housing, books, articles, employment, and other related resources
- **Skills – Teaching:**
  - Parenting skills, independent living skills
  - Attending classes, trainings, non-ASF skills, and other related skills

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GOAL AND STRATEGY STATUS

Table 1. Adult client-level goals and strategies

Goals	Goal Status	Total Strategies	Strategy Categories			
			Support	Resources	Skill	Other
435 (77%)	Achieved or improving	492 (81%)	318 (65%)	108 (22%)	61 (12%)	5 (1%)
59 (11%)	Maintaining	64 (11%)	41 (64%)	8 (13%)	13 (20%)	2 (3%)
52 (10%)	Regressing	52 (9%)	38 (73%)	5 (10%)	9 (17%)	0 (0%)
546 (100%)	All	608 (100%)	397 (65%)	121 (20%)	83 (14%)	7 (1%)

PARENT RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

PRQ Scale	n	Pre Mean	Pre SD	Post Mean	Post SD	p	Effect Size d	Effect Size size
Attachment	177	40.84	10.76	44.41	9.43	.000*	0.33	Small
Communication	169	38.47	12.53	41.73	11.84	.000*	0.26	Small
Discipline Practices	175	47.07	10.46	47.23	11.13	.417	0.02	--
Involvement	176	44.06	9.88	47.33	9.38	.000*	0.33	Small
Parenting Confidence	176	40.97	9.29	44.00	9.34	.000*	0.33	Small
Satisfaction w/ Sch.	165	45.75	11.16	46.99	11.85	.038*	0.11	--
Relational Frustration	176	64.39	12.82	59.43	10.35	.000*	0.39	Small

*Statistically significant; Effect Size (d) = (Post Mean - Pre Mean)/Pre SD; d > 0.2 = small, d > 0.5 = medium, d > 0.8 = large; green font indicates effect size is in the desired direction; red font indicates effect size is not in desired direction

PROTECTIVE FACTORS SURVEY

PRQ Scale	n	Pre		Post			Effect Size	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	*p*	*d*	size
Family Functioning	256	5.19	0.99	5.41	0.98	.000*	0.22	Small
Social Emotional Support	256	5.83	1.21	6.06	1.07	.000*	0.19	--
Concrete Support	256	5.88	1.39	6.07	1.20	.017*	0.13	--
Nurturing and Attachment	256	4.87	1.23	5.18	1.15	.000*	0.26	Small
Knowledge for Parenting								
• Times when I don't know what to do as a parent	255	3.84	1.75	4.62	1.67	.000*	0.45	Small
• Know how to help my child learn	256	4.89	1.58	5.23	1.42	.001*	0.21	Small
• My child misbehaves to upset me	256	4.14	1.93	4.59	1.90	.000*	0.23	Small
• Praise my child when he/she does well	256	5.74	1.01	5.85	0.97	.035*	0.11	--
• When I discipline my child, I lose control	254	5.47	1.12	5.90	4.57	.063	0.38	Small

*Statistically significant; Effect Size (d) = (Post Mean - Pre Mean)/Pre SD; d > 0.2 = small, d > 0.5 = medium, d > 0.8 = large; green font indicates effect size is in the desired direction; red font indicates effect size is not in desired direction

KEY OUTCOMES

Goal	Related Right Turn Outcomes
Permanency	• Right Turn participants were at high risk for adoption dissolution. • 99% (906 of 911 unique families) of participating children remained with committed parents.
Safety	• Results from standardized measures linked to child safety and stability indicate that parents are significantly more involved and connected with their child and report significant improvements in family functioning, social emotional support, concrete supports, and nurturing and attachment factors.
Well-being	• The vast majority of participants achieved - or reported improvement on - their goals. • Results from standardized measures indicated significant pre- to post-intervention improvements in parent-child attachment, communication, and parent-child involvement, parenting confidence, and satisfaction with school, while reporting significant reductions in frustration with parent-child relationships.

MEET THE BAKERS

BAKERS' CORE BELIEFS

NATASHA

Experience with Dissolution

EXPLORING WHAT'S HELPFUL

LESSONS LEARNED

SYSTEM NEEDS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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